

## Senate Resolution 532

By: Senator Hill of the 32nd

## A RESOLUTION

1 Expressing cultural, economic, and educational cooperation with the State of Israel; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, there is a special bond of friendship between the citizens of Georgia and Israel  
4 that inspires the people of Georgia to stand with the people of Israel in solidarity and  
5 welcome all opportunities to grow our already deep relationship at all levels, including  
6 cultural, academic, and business endeavors; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to serve as home to the Israeli Consulate General for the  
8 Southeast; and

9 WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the 5th day of Iyar, Jewish representatives from all over  
10 Palestine met in the Tel Aviv Museum where David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's  
11 independence, and in the following four months, some 50,000 newcomers, mainly Holocaust  
12 survivors, reached Israel's shores; and

13 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be the home of over 45 Israeli companies that employ more  
14 than 2,000 people; and

15 WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Economic Development operates an established  
16 trade office in Israel; and

17 WHEREAS, the cities of Atlanta, Georgia, and Ra'anana, Israel, are official sister cities; and

18 WHEREAS, the Georgia Institute of Technology is involved in a joint initiative with Israel  
19 in developing nanotechnology, a research sector in which Israel is emerging as a global  
20 leader; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia State University and the Georgia International Law Enforcement  
22 Exchange have an established program with law enforcement agencies in Israel; and

23 WHEREAS, the University of Georgia and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have a  
24 program to close the gap of time between acts of terror and governmental response by  
25 studying the ways in which a society that has long been subject to political violence has  
26 addressed the effects of such violence on its peoples; and

27 WHEREAS, Israel is a top export destination for Georgia with transportation equipment,  
28 paper, computer and electronics equipment, beverages and tobacco products, and machinery;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Georgia imports over \$337 million from Israel through the Savannah Customs  
31 District with top imports, including optical, surgical, and photo equipment; organic  
32 chemicals; furniture; electrical machinery; and plastics; and

33 WHEREAS, Delta Air Lines connects Georgia and Israel with regular flight service,  
34 providing the opportunity for business and cultural relationships to grow; and

35 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be a leader in the Israel Bonds program; and

36 WHEREAS, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust works to draw lessons from the  
37 history of the Holocaust in order to help lead new generations of Georgians beyond racism  
38 and bigotry; and

39 WHEREAS, Georgia is proud to be home to chapters of the American Israel Chamber of  
40 Commerce, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the American Jewish Committee,  
41 the Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah, the Jewish Federation, and the Jewish National  
42 Fund.

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
44 hereby recognize the special friendship between Georgia and Israel and express our  
45 appreciation to his Excellency Ambassador Mansour for his tireless efforts to promote peace  
46 and grow the business, cultural, and educational ties between our two nations.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body reaffirm their strong support  
48 of the Israeli people and the God given right of the State of Israel to exist and offer their full  
49 support and prayers.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby encourages further cultural,  
51 educational, and business exchanges between citizens of Georgia and Israel and welcomes  
52 all opportunities to develop the special bond of friendship between Georgia and Israel.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
54 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to his Excellency Ambassador Mansour.